(b) The NDDB has been requested by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Horticulture Division) to undertake pilot testing of concept and functioning of Horticulture markets in one of the centres.

(c) and (d) A request for setting up horticulture auction market has been received by the NDDB from Andhra Pradesh. The request will be considered after the Commissioning of Bangalore Market this year.

Selection of farmers under NAIS

†3180. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the farmers who were benefited under agriculture insurance scheme all over the country during the current financial year and the number of farmers proposed to be provided with benefits thereunder in the coming financial years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of bases on which the selection of farmers has been made/will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Information on the number of farmers benefited in a particular financial year is available only on completion of that financial year.

Fixation of targets for coverage of farmers is not possible because (i) the scheme provides coverage against natural calamities which are unforeseen (ii) the scheme is optional.

(b) The scheme is optional for the States/UTs. The State Government/UT Administration, which opts for the scheme, is required to notify the areas and crops to be covered under the scheme. The loanee farmers availing seasonal agricultural operation loans for the notified crops in the notified area from rural financial institutions are compulsorily covered. Non-loanee farmers may or may not opt for the scheme.

Increasing sugarcane production

†3181. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.